

Assassination files provid

Compiled from wire reports

WASHINGTON — Everyone who paid 10 cents a page for the FBI's 40,001-page file on the Kennedy assassination got pictures of strippers, diagrams of a city bus, a lot of blank pages and a Dallas street map, among other things.

For their \$4,000 they also got assassination theories from psychics, mediums, mind readers, gypsies, two drunken truck drivers and a man from Iowa who thought Lee Harvey Oswald was carrying out a post-hypnotic suggestion planted while he lived in the Soviet Union.

They found out Jack Ruby's car ashtray contained 12 cigarette butts, some with filters and some without and some with lipstick.

Included was a letter to J. Edgar Hoover from George Lincoln Rockwell, head of the American Nazi Party, listing the names and addresses of 27 Nazis in America he figured were capable of an "irrational wild act" like killing John F. Kennedy.

The section labeled "Polish Reaction to the Kennedy Assassination" looked like an ethnic joke. The page was blanked out.

On Oct. 8, 1962, Marina Oswald had her teeth cleaned and X-rayed at the Baylor College of dentistry for \$11. That was over a year before her husband killed Kennedy.

There was an investigation into a newspaper photo of a woman carrying a Kennedy sign in a 1960 political rally because the sign had "Ruby" written on it. The FBI located the woman, who said she had written her first name on the sign so she could retrieve it easily when she laid it down.

There were 13 pages of mostly photos of two strippers named Tammie True and Little Lynn who performed at Ruby's nightclub. But the photocopied pictures were hardly of Playboy magazine quality.

A letter was dug out of the Socialist Party's archives. It was from a 16-year-old schoolboy who had written years before asking for information about socialism for a school paper. His name was Lee Harvey Oswald.

Dozens of school children wrote the FBI asking for information about the Kennedy assassination for class projects. Each got an answer from Hoover, and the carbon of the letters put into FBI files indicated none of the kids had records with the FBI.

When a query came from the FBI in Buffalo that a gypsy in New York was said to have some information about the assassination, the New York agent in charge went to work and reported: "numerous gypsy tearooms contacted on 42nd Street and unable to identify gypsy set out in referenced teletype."

One thing kept secret the past 14 years was the specially bound "bus and taxi exhibits" — 16 pages of pictures and diagrams showing every angle of the two vehicles Oswald used for transportation when he fled the Texas School Book Depository.

More than 1,300 pages were devoted to what might be called the "nut" file — apparently worthless leads investigated anyway.

The file includes such far-flung and unlikely suspects as a group of Jews in Winnipeg, Canada; the minister of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times, and someone who signed a letter simply "Chicago housewife."

The FBI investigated a person who wanted to send a telegram to Andrei Gromyko; an anonymous telephone call the New York State Police got from Baton Rouge, La.; and an obscene letter sent to Marguerite Oswald, the assassin's mother, threatening "Us Nazis'll kill ya'."

One man called the FBI and said he had stopped at a gas station in Scottsdale, Ariz., six months after the assassination and in a telephone book in a phone booth found "John Wilks Booth" and "John F. Kennedy" written on the front page. The middle name of the killer of Abraham Lincoln had been spelled incorrectly.

The FBI found the telephone book. Under Booth's name was written "115 Death Row." Under Kennedy's was written PXJ 00050, Arlington Cemetery — another incorrect spelling.

After questioning the owner of the gas station and others, the FBI concluded "no one had noticed any questionable persons in the telephone booth."

The French counter-intelligence service intercepted and turned over to the FBI a letter from a woman in Fort Worth writing to her Russian brother in France.

A woman from Chicago said Ruby approached her on Nov. 21 and offered her \$5,000 to drive him to Dallas.

There were four pages of pictures of Oswald's shoes, and 15 more of his shirts, sweaters and slacks. Hundreds of pages were devoted to pictures or diagrams of guns, bullets, and fingerprints.

Here are notes gleaned from the Kennedy assassination files:

The FBI documents show Hoover was extremely concerned about news coverage of the investigation of the assassination. Many contacts between journalists and the FBI are detailed in the documents, from newsmen providing tips to the FBI to the FBI probing for a journalist's sources.

"I thought no one knew this outside of FBI," Hoover wrote on a copy of one news story dated Dec. 3, 1963. "Certainly someone is doing too much talking."

Hoover said in a memo three days after the assassination that President Lyndon B. Johnson was upset by a possible Washington Post editorial calling for a presidential commission to investigate the Kennedy assassination. The memo said Johnson had asked Hoover to try to stop publication of the editorial.

"He asked if I could dissuade the Post

from carrying the editorial and I told him, frankly, that I seldom read the paper, but would get word as to what is being done," the Hoover memo said.

Documents indicated that Hoover at first harbored some doubts that Oswald acted alone in the killing. Three weeks after the Nov. 22, 1963, murder, Hoover advised President Johnson he had some letters in which someone in Cuba had apparently encouraged Oswald to kill Kennedy, and persuaded Johnson not to release an early official finding that "Oswald was the only man."

Hoover, however, never doubted Oswald was the trigger man, and advised Johnson of that belief within hours of the shooting. He described Oswald on that occasion as "in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

Doctors were initially "at a loss to explain" why they could not find a bullet in the body of the President, or a wound where a bullet had left the body, according to the official FBI report on the autopsy. But evidence turned up in Dallas while the autopsy was under way at Bethesda Naval Hospital explained the missing bullets, the report said.

The fact that no intact bullet was found in Kennedy's body has been used by assassination conspiracy advocates as evidence that there could have been a second assassin, since no bullet causing death could be traced to Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle.

X-rays of Kennedy's head taken at Bethesda during the autopsy showed approximately 40 particles of disintegrated bullet, but no exit wound for the remainder of the disintegrated bullet.

"Inasmuch as no complete bullet of any size could be located in the brain area and likewise no bullet could be located in the back or any other area of the body and inspection revealed no point of exit, the individuals performing the autopsy were at a loss to explain why they could find no bullets," the report said.

The report notes that a bullet had reportedly been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital. When the doctors were informed that a bullet had been found in the Dallas hospital, they concluded it could have "worked its way back out" of Kennedy's body via the point of entry when cardiac massage had been performed.

FBI agents said Oswald "frantically denied" shooting either Kennedy or Dallas Patrolman J.D. Tippit, another victim that day, when officers questioned him prior to his own murder by Jack Ruby. The Warren Commission included extensive paraphrased recollections of what Oswald had told his captors, since no tape recordings or stenographic transcripts were kept. But those

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reports had described the suspect as poised and even defiant rather than frantic."

FBI agents said Ruby insisted "no one else was involved" when he shot Oswald on Nov. 24, and quoted Ruby as saying he had simply brooded over the Kennedy assassination "until he reached the point of insanity."

Ruby fired a single shot from his three-year-old pistol, fatally wounding Oswald, and turned to one of the police he liked to count as friends. "Somebody had to do it. You all couldn't do it," he told one officer.

"I hope I killed the S.O.B.," he told another.

In a nationwide search that followed, according to FBI documents, hundreds of scraps of information about Ruby's character and past came to light but none to contradict Ruby's own claim he acted alone and for purely emotional reasons.

Scores of times in the files on Ruby the sentence appears, "(Name of person interviewed) did not know Lee Harvey Oswald and has no knowledge of any connection between Ruby and Oswald."

Hoover quickly issued orders telling agents to provide Dallas police all possible assistance in investigating the assassination and finding possible conspirators. He also issued a nationwide alert to "immediately establish whereabouts of bombing suspects, all known Klan and hate group members, known racial extremists and any other individuals who on the basis of information available in your files may possibly have been involved."

Countless man-hours were devoted to tracing false leads in both the Kennedy and Oswald killings, and reports of these ran to more than 1,300 of the 40,000 pages released.

Just 13 days before he killed President Kennedy, Oswald prodded the Soviet Embassy in Washington to expedite his and his wife's attempt to return to Russia.

This was buried in a summary of the embassy file which Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin turned over to the State Department. This file showed that as early as Feb. 17, 1963, Marina Oswald had inquired by mail of the Soviet Embassy how she could return to Russia. On Nov. 9, 1963, Oswald wrote the Soviet Embassy from Dallas, indicating he was increasingly anxious to have the necessary papers processed.

An anonymous caller told the FBI 10 days after the assassination of Kennedy that the outlawed Irish Republican Army planned sending "a company" to Dallas "to commit mayhem on that city."

The FBI's Los Angeles office sent an urgent teletype message to Washington headquarters saying that a county detective captain had received the call from a man who said he had a brother in the IRA in Ireland.

"Caller said he received word from a relative in Ireland informing that the IRA will attempt to get a company of IRA members into the United States via Aer Lingus (Irish Airlines) and if unsuccessful by air, the members will arrive in the United States one by one for the purpose of going to Dallas, Texas, to commit mahem (sic) on that city."

The message said that the detective judged the caller "to be sane and well educated."

In the aftermath of the assassination, American Nazi party commander George Lincoln Rockwell sent the FBI a list of names associated with his extremist organization as persons "to keep a careful watch on," according to FBI documents. Rockwell, himself the victim of an assassin in 1967, sent the letter to Hoover Nov. 27, 1963. Strongly denouncing the assassination, Rockwell nevertheless conceded that his "extreme political movement attracts irresponsible and lunatic elements who are not welcome, but who force themselves upon the movement and are very hard to get rid of."

John F. Kennedy's last words may have been either "Get me to a hospital," or "My God, I've been hit," according to two different versions by the head Secret Service agent in Dallas on Nov. 23, 1963.

Roy Kellerman, assistant agent in charge of the White House detail and the ranking Secret Service agent that day, was riding next to the driver of the presidential car. He said he recalled the car had just traveled through a crowd of 250,000 people and he "breathed a sigh of relief" as they approached an underpass.

He heard a shot, "observed the President slump forward and heard him say 'Get me to a hospital.'"

In a separate interview Kellerman said he "distinctly and positively" heard Kennedy say, "My God, I've been hit."

Oswald considered himself a Marxist when he was 16, before he joined the Marine Corps, and wrote to the Socialist party in New York asking for information.

A letter signed "Lee Oswald," sent from Fort Worth in 1956, turned up in the Socialist party files preserved at Duke University, Durham, N.C. It was brought to the FBI's attention during the probe of President Kennedy's assassination.

The FBI checked the authenticity of the letter and concluded it was written by Lee Harvey Oswald.

The handwritten letter said:

"Dear Sirs:

"I am 16 years of age and would like more information about your youth league, I would like to know if there is a branch in my area, how to join, etc. I am a Marxist, and have been studying socialist principles for well over 15 months."

I am very interested in your Y.P.S.L."

"Sincerely,

"Lee Oswald."

One FBI memo said the Justice Department tried to get one of its own lawyers on the Warren Commission "so that we will know what is going on." A Dec. 6, 1963, memo written by FBI official Alan H. Belmont, while the presidential commission was being formed, quoted the deputy attorney general, Nicholas Katzenbach, as saying "if Warren Olney is appointed as counsel for the presidential commission, Katzenbach is going to try to get an attorney from the criminal division in with the commission, so that we will know what is going on."

Oswald's address book, seized by the FBI after the assassination, contained a jumble of notes in English and Russian and addresses for the Soviet ambassador, several Cuban organizations, two American reporters in Moscow and the name of an FBI agent, James Hosty.

A 1953 court-ordered psychiatric profile of 13-year-old Oswald found him to be seriously detached and withdrawn with delusions of power which could one day prove harmful.

The children's probate court of New York City ordered the examination because of Oswald's excessive absences from school.

The Oswald family moved from Texas to New York in 1952, and psychiatrists determined Lee "has not been able to make a New York adjustment." The family left New York "presumably" for New Orleans in 1954.

"The root of his difficulties," said the report, "seems to be his relationship with his mother (Marguerite Oswald) ... a rigid self-involved woman with strong ideas."

The report was made available to the FBI by the probate court.

One woman wrote to the attorney general, Robert F. Kennedy, that his brother, the president, had been killed by "the highest echelon of the Syndicate, called 'The Members of the House of Ax.'" She said she knew this because "demons and werewolves" continually spoke to her in private.

Another letter writer from Albany, N.Y., said she had a dream two weeks prior to the assassination in which she saw the local newspaper with headlines of JFK's death and she just had to tell somebody about it.